

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings on the grounds of reference numerals. By this Amendment, reference numerals have been added to the specification on page 16 and Figure 3. The Examiner objected to Figures 1 and 2 for labeling but this is not understood as both figures are labeled with numerals. The Examiner rejected claim 18 as being indefinite for the phrase "and/or". By this Amendment, this phrase has been removed from claim 18.

The Examiner rejected all claims as being anticipated or obvious over U.S. Patent 6,453,339 (Schultz et al.). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The application and claims are directed to an automated provisioning system authenticating and authorizing the use of services running on a distributed system. A typical application is services running on cable television systems or broadband internet-type services such as the context of virtual internet providers, companies leasing bandwidth from telephone companies and offering services to consumers. In contrast, Schultz is not a provisioning system but describes a method of presenting information to a user.

Schultz, at col. 2, line 57 through col. 3, line 9, describes a directory server and discusses problems in collecting and storing information. The patent then discusses a search for data and grouping of information by subject. Schultz does not disclose an automated provisioning system and there is no interaction with components of a distributed electronic system or data manipulation. At col. 17, Schultz discloses the amendment of data only if sufficient permission is granted but is directed towards users, not a service manager. Authorization to access the information repository is not a component of a distributed electronic system and Schultz does not address issues of services running on components of the distributed system.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation

would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned Attorney.

A two-month Extension of Time accompanies this response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

by   
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Date: Sept. 30, 2004

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Attorney's Docket: A-7081.AMA/sbs

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants submit the proposed corrections for Figure 3 on a separate piece of paper. No new matter has been added.